United Nations S/2002/198

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 February 2002
English
Original: French

Letter dated 25 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I regretfully bring to the attention of the Security Council the following extremely serious facts.

At a moment when the inter-Congolese dialogue is opening in Sun City, troops of the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA), supported by those of the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD-Goma), flagrantly violated the ceasefire by attacking troops based in Muliro, in the vicinity of Lake Tanganyika.

RPA deployed three battalions of its forces stationed in Kamamba for these clashes, which took place on 22 February at 8 p.m. local time.

Faced with a situation of self-defence, the Forces armées congolaises (FAC) put up fierce resistance to the attackers, and succeeded in driving the enemy troops beyond Kamamba.

My Government, basing itself on its numerous appeals to the Security Council regarding the APR deployment in Kivu and Maniema provinces, wishes to point out that Muliro was "a disputed position" which had been part of the discussions in both the Political Committee and the Joint Military Commission.

My Government also recalls that, in order to eliminate any pretext on the part of Rwanda and RCD-Goma, it proposed in good faith to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) that it station its observers in Muliro.

This resumption of hostilities at the very moment when the Congolese people, gathered at the inter-Congolese dialogue, are preparing to become reconciled among themselves, once again demonstrates the clear intention of the dictatorial, mono-ethnic and sectarian regime of President Kagame and his Akazu to carry out the "*Anschluss*" of the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, while remaining in its territory forever.

Without any doubt, these actions on Rwanda's part also constitute a flagrant violation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, the Kampala disengagement plan and the subplans for disengagement and redeployment which that country nonetheless signed of its own accord and which are aimed at establishing an effective ceasefire and accelerating the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

02-26405 (E) 270202 270202

My Government requests the Security Council, MONUC and the international community as a whole to forcefully condemn this act, which is clearly intended to sabotage the inter-Congolese dialogue.

My Government, reminding the Security Council of the heavy price which the Congolese people have already paid in terms of the massacres, rapes and multiple violations of human rights and international humanitarian law perpetrated by the aggressor countries, including Rwanda, in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, further asks the Council to do its utmost, as it is mandated to do by the Charter of the United Nations and its relevant resolutions on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to finally put an end to the bellicose aims of Rwanda and to the murderous and terrorist adventure of this new band of mercenaries of the twenty-first century.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ileka** Atoki
Permanent Representative